



Central South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division – Region 2



June 21, 2013

Brule/Buffalo Counties

Diana Schroeder



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Anglers have been satisfied with their walleye limits. Most walleyes being caught have been less than 15 inches. Be sure to have an accurate measuring tool to measure your walleye. Shoreline fishing has still been very successful. White bass and smallmouth bass have been biting at Fort Thompson area. Anglers have reported large walleyes biting north of Big Bend Dam on Lake Sharpe.

Boaters should be aware of shoreline fishermen and keep a respectful distance from their lines.

Don't forget to check your boats valid registration and safety equipment before hitting the water.



Hunting Report:

NO REPORT

Campbell County

Doug DeLaRoi



Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below

Boaters are reminded to check their boat licenses and make sure that all safety equipment is in working order for the boating season.



Hunting Report:

NO REPORT

Corson/Dewey Counties

Shawn Madison:



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Pudwell Dam: Very little activity, catching a few bass and crappies.

Morristown East: No activity but stocking efforts past two years has been successful for largemouth and crappies. Fish size is small, some northern pike.

Morristown West: No activity. Perch stockings have been successful ranging from 8-10 inches.

Trail City Dam: No activity and a lot of small northern pike showed up in surveys.

Little Moreau #1: No activity,

Little Moreau #2: Some activity, fishing well for trout and some perch.

Isabel Lake: Some activity.

Eagle Butte Dam: Little activity. Year classes of bluegill look very good ranging from 6-8 inches. Recently stocked largemouth bass are doing well but are small between 5-6 inches.



Hunting Report:

Don't forget to buy your 2013 hunting and fishing licenses.

Charles Mix/Douglas Counties

Jeff Martin



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

A lot of fish being caught from Elm Creek all the way to Whetstone area. Anglers continue to report high catch rates of walleye. Bottom bouncers with a spinner or bare hook in 12-20ft are the tactic of choice for most. The fish in this area are biting well and seem to have transitioned to a night crawler bite. Anglers fishing south of Whetstone down to the Pease Creek area are starting to pick up fish as well; those fish are still on a bit of a minnow bite. There are lots of nice fish in the system this year, but there is also a large year class of fish in the 14 inch range. Make sure you have an accurate measuring board.



Hunting Report:

NO REPORT



Fishing Report:

The walleye bite has been very steady this month. A lot of smaller walleyes are being caught, especially around the Platte/Winner bridge area. Whetstone Bay area has been producing good limits of fish. Expect fishing to be good throughout the month, with bigger fish biting further south. Bottom bouncers with minnows or night crawlers have been producing a lot of nice walleyes. Remember, the minimum length limit is 15 inches for walleye/sauger/saugeye, and only 1 of your daily limit of 4 may be 20 inches or larger. Save yourself some trouble and buy a decent measuring device. Make sure you measure fish from the tip of the mouth to the tip of the pinched tail. If you have to measure twice, you better throw it back.

Please only put one fish into the fish grinders at a time. Also, these grinders are not made to handle catfish heads. Please throw them in the trash bins located next to each cleaning station.

Don't forget to have a valid park pass if you plan on using state park areas. Passes can be bought at the entrances.

Remember to have your boats properly equipped before getting on the water. All boats must have properly fitting lifejackets for everyone on board. Children under 7 years old must wear them while the boat is on the water. Lifejackets that are torn or damaged will not count as legal lifejackets. Make sure to keep all lifejackets readily accessible. Boats 16 feet and larger must have a Type 4 throw cushion on board. Boats with internal gas tanks must have a fire extinguisher in working order. Check the dial and make sure it is in the green, or push down on the white or green cap. If the cap pops back up, the fire extinguisher is still good. Also, make sure you have a sober boat driver. The same standards for driving under the influence apply on the water.

Any information on game and fish violations may be called in using the Turn In Poachers Hotline 1-888-683-7224 or by calling your local Conservation Officer. Rewards are available and you can remain anonymous.

Any other questions or concerns can be directed to Wildlife Conservation Officer Hans Walleser at 605-775-2475.



Hunting Report:

Spring turkey season ended on Sunday, May 19. A few hunters were out trying to fill tags over the weekend.

Hyde/Hand Counties

Cory Flor



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*

Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*

Fishing has been good at area lakes. Anglers have been catching lots of northern pike at Lake Louise.



Hunting Report:
No Report

Hughes County

John Murphy



Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below.

Anglers are reminded to check their boats for all the safety equipment before they head out on the water. Anglers are also reminded to watch the weather, for it can change rapidly and conditions can deteriorate quickly. Fishing reports refer to Missouri River Report.



Hunting Report:

In the last week I have seen a lot of deer with fawns, sometimes you see fawns without the doe, these are not abandoned fawn. Most of the time the mother is just off eating in another area and will be back to check on the fawn later. The best advice is to **LEAVE ALL YOUNG WILDLIFE ALONE**, the worst thing to do is to pick it up and leave human scent on it.

Jones County

Dan Altman



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

North Dam - Water levels increased with recent rainfall in the area. The floating boat dock has recently been re-installed for the season. Anglers have reported catching fish has been slow. The North Dam has healthy numbers of largemouth bass, black crappie, and small mouth bass.



Hunting Report:

NO REPORT

Lyman County

Dan Altman



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Fate Dam - Anglers fishing from boats are successfully targeting and catching northern pike and largemouth bass. Those fishing shallow are having the best success. Most northern pike are in the 8-10 pound range and most largemouth bass are in the 1-4 pound range. Anglers also have been catching small walleye from 1 to 2 years old the best thing to do is release them so they are able to grow bigger. Anglers should practice catch and release.

Brakke Dam – With the warm temperatures it is causing the water to be warm. Anglers on a boat have seen decent success catching blue gill, largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass. Many of the walleye caught are in the 18-20 inch range. Some of the smallmouths being brought in are in the 3-4 pound range. There is no minimum size restriction in place for walleye but only one walleye over 20 inches may be kept.

Lake Byre - Water levels have increased dramatically in the past week and water is and will continue to flow over the spillway. The water is also very murky, which is causing the fishing to be bad.



Hunting Report:

NO REPORT

Potter County

Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below:

Potts Dam – Anglers are reporting catching a few bass from shore.

Lake Hurley – No report

Simon Dam – No Report



Hunting Report:

NO REPORT

Stanley County

Josh Carr



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.

Hayes Lake

No activity

Twin Dams

No activity

Fishing on Lake Oahe has really picked up but with the unstable weather conditions the fishing has been spotty. Lake Sharpe fishing has been the same. The white bass bite has started and people are having good luck on them. When weather has been stable fishing has been good on both lakes. Anglers are catching fish in the Cheyenne.



Hunting Report:

NO REPORT

Sully County

Andy Schmahl



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.

Cottonwood Lake: A few perch and walleyes are being caught, but fishing is slow.

Lake Oahe: Bush's Landing, Sutton Bay, Little Bend, Cow Creek: Fishing has been very good lately with a little of everything being caught. Walleyes are still biting very well and depending on the weather are in varying depths from 10 to 50 feet. It's mostly little fish showing up and eating a lot of bait. Those little fish are very abundant and don't have enough food which is why the 8 fish daily limit geared towards fish under 15" with the 3 day possession limit for this year. Some larger fish are being caught as well with the occasional big trophy fish. Fishing is good everywhere on Lake Oahe right now and its excellent in Sully County.



Hunting Report:

NO REPORT

Tripp/Todd/Mellette Counties

Matt Hill



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

The fish are still biting well around area lakes and dams. I would recommend trying Rahn Lake (Bass/Pike), Dog Ear Lake (Bass/Pike/Perch), King Dam (Bass/Perch/Crappie) and Roosevelt Lake (pretty much has every fish including walleye). Make sure you purchase your fishing license, renew your boat license, have the proper safety equipment in your boat (throw able, life jackets for everyone on board, and a fire extinguisher for boats with enclosed gas tanks) and make sure you're following state limits/regs. Being prepared is the first step in having a fun and safe summer.



Hunting Report:

Prairie dog hunters I would recommend looking towards Mellette County or other counties further to the north and west. So far this spring prairie dog hunters haven't had great revues after hunting the Winner area. We have had previous reports of prairie dog plague in the past couple years from Western Mellette, Todd and Western Tripp Counties and I believe we are still rebounding from that. Be cautious when hunting prairie dog towns. Do not handle dead or shot prairie dogs, do not let you pet dog dig into den sites or handle dead prairie dogs. I would recommend just leaving your pets at home. I haven't seen any pheasant chicks yet, but there seemed to be plenty of hens around earlier this spring so hopefully we get a good hatch. Many Whitetails does have been dropping fawns, remember if you see a deer fawn by itself please leave it alone, and because the mother is probably close by or off feeding. If you handle deer fawns or take them away from their mothers there's a good chance they will die.

Walworth County

Doug DeLaRoi/Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below

Boaters are reminded to check their boat licenses and make sure that all safety equipment is in working order for the boating season.



Hunting Report:

NO REPORT

Missouri River report:

Lake Oahe and Lake Sharpe

Kyle Potter

Lake Oahe

Lake Oahe walleye regulations have changed to allow higher harvest of the abundant walleye during this time of low availability food within Lake Oahe. The regulation is the following: 8 walleye/sauger/hybrids daily of which up to 4 can be greater than 15 inches with only 1 of which can be greater than 20 inches. The possession limit is 24 fish which may not be possessed without 3 or more of fishing. The higher daily and possession limits will allow anglers to harvest a greater number of fish which may possibly die do the lack of food within the lake.

Fishing throughout Lake Oahe is off to a great start for the summer. Water levels on Lake Oahe are increasing slightly due to recent rains and water held back due to downstream flooding. All ramps throughout Lake Oahe are operational and will be adjusted due to changing water levels.

Pollock/Mobridge – Fishing pressure has increased greatly in this region due to the great fishing currently to be had. Anglers are catching walleye with many techniques such as casting shallows, trolling plugs, drifting live bait rigs, and jig and minnows. Many are being caught in less than 20 feet of water. Catches of small fish are most common. Anglers are also catching channel catfish, crappie, and northern pike

Gettysburg – Fishing pressure has increased around the Gettysburg region with some increase of catches of fish. Anglers are catching a walleye in waters less than 20 feet with many various techniques. Catches of small walleye are most commonly caught. Anglers are catching others species as well as the water warms such as northern pike, white bass, channel catfish, and crappie.

Pierre – Fishing pressure is the greatest in the Cheyenne River arm in the Pierre region with many boats launching from the Minneconjou Access. Catches of small walleye is most common, along with other species of fish such as channel catfish, northern pike, and crappie. Many anglers are fishing in 25 feet and less of water. Outside of the Cheyenne River catches by anglers have increased with many anglers fishing shallow presentations around Cow and Spring Creek areas.

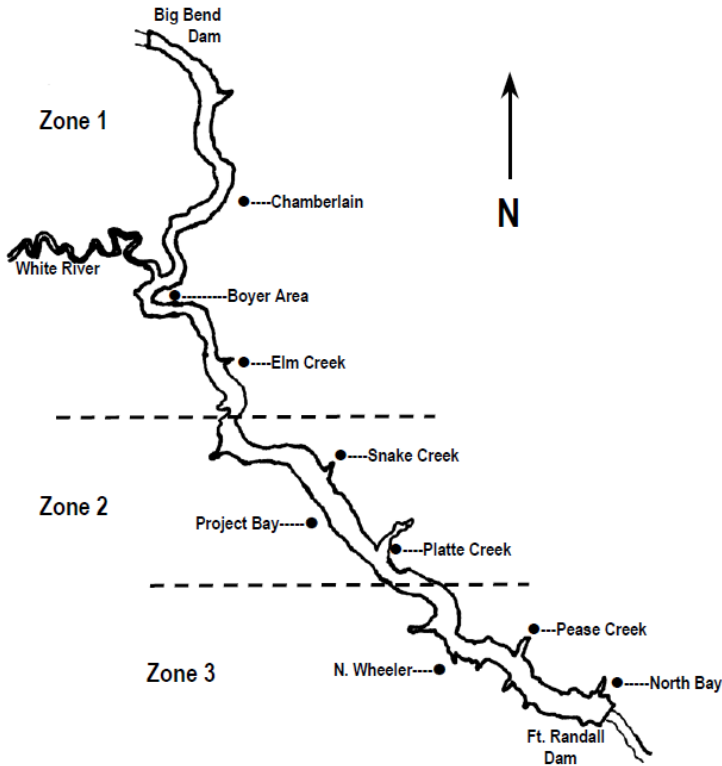
Lake Sharpe

Fishing pressure is very high throughout Lake Sharpe. Many anglers are doing well in the Pierre region. Recent rains have increased the flow of the Bad River into Lake Sharpe making the waters below the mouth very muddy and hard to fish. Most anglers are fishing above the mouth of the Bad around the bridges and in the stilling basin. Many anglers are drifting minnow rigs with others casting and trolling plugs. A mixture of small sublegal walleyes and legal walleyes are caught on a trip. The West Bend region is very busy as with anglers' success. Many anglers are fishing live bait rigs in shallow water (less than 20 feet) for walleye. Anglers are fishing with minnow and night crawlers and having the same results. Smallmouth bass and an occasional crappie are being caught as well. Anglers are asked to remember the 15 inch minimum size limit on walleye/sauger on Lake Sharpe this time of the year.

Reminder the 15 inch minimum size restrictions for walleye/sauger are in effect from September 1st through June 30th each year on Lake Sharpe. The one walleye/sauger over 20 inches daily still remains in effect year round.

Lake Francis Case

Rachel Tribble



Zone 1 – Anglers have been catching a lot of walleyes from Big Bend Dam south to Elm Creek. Most of those are less than 15 inches. Anglers are also catching some smallmouth bass in the marinas.

*** Reminder: The area between the railroad bridge and I-90 bridge causeway in Brule and Lyman counties is closed to fishing Dec. 1 – April 30, except shore fishing is allowed from the Brule county side. Note: this area will open up May 1st.**

Zone 2 – Anglers are having good success catching walleyes around the Platte Creek area. Many of the walleyes are around 16 to 18 inches with a few over 20 inches. Anglers are also bringing in nice crappies and smallmouth bass.

Zone 3 – The walleye bite is decent in the lower third or the reservoir. Anglers are catching nice smallmouth bass as well.